

Defensive errors hit Isthmians

Isthmian League 2, Athenian League 3

A STORMING first-half hat-trick by Lewes' Woffinden grossly exaggerated the Athenian League's part in last Wednesday's supposed showpiece against the Isthmian League (writes Mike Whitesman).

The Isthmian League, using Wycombe's Loakes Park as host ground, were the stronger side and played the better football. And, but for some poor defensive covering and unfortunate goalkeeping by Parsons in the first half, they would have been seen home comfortably by goals from Keith Searle and Bernie Bremer.

Wanderers, with four men in Bulgaria, supplied five more to the Isthmian cause. An industrious Tony Horseman and Keith Blunt played throughout, while John Maskell took over from Parsons in the second half to steady things down.

Minus the entire Charles Hughes' Olympic squad, amateur football's night of prestige flopped—although there were enough names in the re-ar-

ranged teams to avoid such a fate.

The Isthmians missed early chances and paid the penalty after six minutes when Woffinden placed himself well in front of goal to head home from a long range free kick.

Horseman and Searle combined to make the equaliser for the latter 17 minutes later, but, by the 26th minute, another Woffinden header had put the Athenians ahead again.

And the 'home' backrow succumbed lamely once more in the 42nd minute as Amoss crossed from possession along the line on the left, Parsons mis-cued his pick-up, and Woffinden slipped in for his hat-trick.

A breakaway two minutes into the new half gave Bremer a goal and the Isthmians a fighting chance of a deserved draw. Hayes goalkeeper, Ovington however turned in a brilliant performance to enable the 'visiting' League to hold on to their 3-2 advantage.

The Athenians included three Slough men — Swain, D'Arcy and Mead, plus ex-Wycombe player, Bobby Hatt.

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE: Parson (Dulwich Hamlet) (Sub.: Maskell, 2nd half); Blunt, Burgess (St. Albans), Wood (St. Albans), Cooper (Hendon), Brooks (Sutton Utd), Bremer, Howell (Leytonstone), Butterfield (St. Albans), Searle, Horseman.

ATHENIAN LEAGUE: Ovington (Hayes); Brazier (Leatherhead), D'Arcy (Slough), Mead (Slough), Reid (Leatherhead), Hatt (Hayes), Murphy (Cheshunt), Davies (Leatherhead), Swain (Slough), Woffinden (Lewes), Amoss (Hayes).
Referee: Mr. A. A. Teale (London).

